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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: OASC: IS
SUBJECT: W/W - BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY
REF: A) STATE 213200 B) TEL AVIV 14427 C) TEL AVIV 14579
D) TEL AVIV 14842, E) TEL AVIV 15269
1. IN A REVIEW OF THE DEPT'S FILE ON THE BLACK HEBREW (BH) COMMUNITY, WE HAVE FOUND LITTLE INFORMATION ON MATTERS SUCH AS THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GROUP'S SOCIAL STRUCTURE, AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE LOCAL POPULACE TOWARD THE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF THE DEPT'S HIGH INTEREST IN AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE
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AMCIT MEMBERS, A MORE COMPLETE PROFILE OF THE BH COMMUNITY WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
2. THE DEPT APPRECIATES THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF TELS B THROUGH E. HOWEVER, IN DEVELOPING A COMPLETE PROFILE, THE DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE, IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING INFO:
A. WHAT IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SEGREGATION OF THE BH COMMUNITY FROM THE LOCAL ISRAELI POPULACE? IS THE DEGREE OF SEGREGATION SIMILAR IN ALL THREE OF THE BH COMMUNITIES? WILL THIS CHANGE IF THE BH COMMUNITY IS RELOCATED TO THE MOSHAV SITE AT RAMAT HOVEV PROPOSED IN THE GLASS REPORT?
B. IN LIGHT OF THE GLASS REPORT'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL SURROUNDINGS OF THE BH COMMUNITY, WHAT IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS WITHIN THE 3 BH COMMUNITIES? DOES EMBASSY CONSIDER THAT THE HOUSES OR APARTMENTS ARE OVERCROWDED? WHAT GENERALLY IS THE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER DWELLING? DO THESE CONDITIONS, IN EM

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BASSY'S VIEW, PRESENT ANY SAFETY, SANITARY OR OTHER PROBLEMS?

C. WHAT IS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE VARIOUS BH COMMUNITIES? ARE THERE VIABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN BY CAR TO THE COMMUNITIES? WHAT IS THE DISTANCE AND TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN THE THREE BH COMMUNITIES?

D. HOW WOULD THE EMBASSY DESCRIBE THE GROUP'S SOCIAL STRUCTURE? IS IT BASED ON THE FAMILY? ARE THE CHILDREN SEGREGATED FROM THE ADULTS?

E. IN LIGHT OF REFTELS B-D, HOW DO THE AMCIT MEMBERS OF THE BH COMMUNITIES SUPPORT THEMSELVES? WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT OF AMCIT MEMBERS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES? HAS THERE BEEN A MOVE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE SPECIAL WORK PERMITS (REFTEL D)? IS THERE ANY DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE THAT THE BH COMMUNITY IS RECEIVING FUNDS FROM OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL?

F. WHAT IS THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF AMCIT MEMBERS (INCLUDING CHILDREN) IN EACH OF THE THREE BH COMMUNITIES? IN GENERAL WHAT ARE THE AGES OF THESE MEMBERS? IS THERE AN EFFORT BEING MADE BY THE EMBASSY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BH COMMUNITY TO VERIFY THE TRUE PARENTAGE OF AND DOCUMENT CHILDREN BORN OF AMCIT MEMEBERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY?

G. WHAT IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTROL EXERCISED BY THE LEADER, BEN-AMI CARTER, OVER THE MEMBERS? HAS EMBASSY MADE ANY FURTHER DETERMINATION WHETHER THIS CONTROL IS PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR PHYSICAL? (REFTEL E) WHAT

I. WHAT, IF ANY, STATISTICS ARE MAINTAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL ON THE BH COMMUNITIES? ARE THEY AVAILIABLE TO THE EMBASSY?

J. HAS THE EMBASSY APPROACHED RESPONSIBLE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WITH VIEW TOWARD THEIR DOCUMENTING DEATHS AND BURIALS IN BH COMMUNITY?

K. WHAT IS THE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE HEALTH CONDITIONS AND LEVEL OF NUTRITION THAT EXIST IN THE BH COMMUNITY?

L. HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE CITIZEN MEMBERS IN THE BH COMMUNITY EXPRESSED ANY CONCERN ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY? HAS EMBASSY CONTACTED REPRESENTATIVES OF SUCH COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD?

M. WHAT IS THE EMBASSY' ASSESSMENT OF THE ATTITUDE OF LOCAL OFFICIALS AND THE LOCAL POPULACE TOWARD THE BH COMMUNITIES?

3. THE DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT DEFINITIVE ANSWERS TO SOME

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GIVE US YOUR BEST ASSESSMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHER
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